

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3093

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR TU CY

SUBJ: SENATOR INAN COMMENTS ON NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ON CHAIRMAN OF THE TURKISH
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, KAMRAN INAN, APRIL 5
TO DISCUSS THE NEW U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT. INAN
WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE AGREEMENT AND FORECAST
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY GAINING
PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. HE SAID THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN
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PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE BASICALLY

OPPOSED TO THE AGREEMENT, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE AGAINST IT BECAUSE OF THE OUTSPOKEN GREEK OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT. IN ESSENCE, HE EXPLAINED, NO TURKISH POLITICIAN WOULD PUT HIMSELF IN THE POSITION OF VOTING AGAINST SOMETHING THE GREEKS SO VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED. NEVERTHELESS, INAN SAID HE AND HIS PARTY WERE UNDERTAKING A WIDE RANGING EFFORT TO GET THE SUPPORT OF TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION. THE FIRST PHASE HAD INVOLVED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, INAN, AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT FIGURES. HE SAID THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE A JOINT SENATE-NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING -- PROBABLY FAIRLY SOON -- DURING WHICH THE FONMIN WOULD EXPLAIN THE AGREEMENT.

2. IN CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION IN TURKEY, INAN OBSERVED THAT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT PROBLEM IN GETTING THE AGREEMENT APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. HE SAID THE GOT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED USEFUL (AS BY SENDING DELEGATIONS OF JOURNALISTS OR PARLIAMENTARIANS) BUT HE WAS LEERY OF AN OVERT LOBBYING ATTEMPT IN WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A PRIMARILY DOMESTIC DEBATE. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD WRITTEN TO NATO SEC GEN LUNS SUGGESTING THAT LUNS PERSONALLY SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT BOTH IN THE U.S. AND IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT, INAN SAID THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON:

A. THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION;

B. ATTITUDES OF MAJOR U.S. PRESS AND TELEVISION ORGANIZATIONS; AND

C. ANY INDICATION OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE JEWISH LOBBY. (INAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT BY THE JEWISH LOBBY MIGHT BE THE KEY TO ITS PASSAGE THROUGH CONGRESS.) HE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL ON APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THE GOT COULD ASSIST IN OVERCOMING THE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM.

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4. EMBASSY OFFICERS AGREED WITH INAN THAT GETTING THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM AND SAID IN THIS REGARD THE MOST HELPFUL THING THE GOT WOULD DO WOULD BE TO MAKE SOME POSITIVE MOVE ON CYPRUS. INAN RESPONDED WITH TWO COUNTER-ARGUMENTS: (1) TURKEY'S OCTOBER 1977 ELECTIONS ARE DRAWING CLOSER, AND NO PARTY WOULD WANT TO MAKE ITSELF VULNERABLE ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE;

(2) GIVEN THE "MOOD IN ATHENS" NO TURKISH STATESMAN COULD POSSIBLY CONSIDER MAKING ANY CONCILIATORY GESTURE ON CYPRUS AT THIS TIME.

WHEN ASKED WHAT CHANGES IN ATHENS' BEHAVIOR MIGHT ENABLE THE GOT TO MAKE SOME SUCH GESTURE, INAN SAID THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT INDICATING THAT THE NEW U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT WAS IN KEEPING WITH AND WOULD STRENGTHEN THE JOINT SECURITY SYSTEM OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND URGE THAT CONGRESS APPROVE IT. INAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS AN UNREALISTIC EXPECTATION AND EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT CARAMANLIS, ALTHOUGH A CAPABLE STATESMAN, HAD MANAGED TO GET HIMSELF INTO A POSITION THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF. (INAN SAID CARAMANLIS HAD MADE TWO CRITICAL MISTAKES RECENTLY IN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY. THE FIRST WAS PUSHING FOR FULL GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC, THUS ATTEMPTING TO ISOLATE TURKEY. THE SECOND WAS HIS ATTEMPT TO MARSHALL ALLIED OPPOSITION TO THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT BY PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH ALLIED LEADERS.) INAN THEN OFFERED HIS PERSONAL CONCERN THAT IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE TO CALM THE SITUATION IN ATHENS, THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT SOON WE WILL NOT BE TALKING ONLY ABOUT CYPRUS, BUT ALSO OF THE OCCUPATION OF OTHER ISLANDS AND OTHER TERRITORY. HE THEN REPEATED A THEME THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHER TURKISH POLITICIANS HAVE EXPRESSED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I.E., THAT TURKEY WILL NOT ALLOW THE AIR AND NAVAL BALANCE IN THE AEGEAN TO SHIFT IN FAVOR OF GREECE. IF SUCH A SHIFT APPEARS TO BE HAPPENING, THE TURKISH MILITARY WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE PREEMPTIVE ACTION.

5. COMMENT: INAN IS AN INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN FOR GOT POLICY. HE IS CLEARLY PLEASED WITH THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THINKS IT COULD BE A MAJOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL VICTORY FOR THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE IS AWARE

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AND CONCERNED THAT PASSAGE THROUGH CONGRESS IS IN DOUBT. HOWEVER, HE WILL NOT ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF INSURING PASSAGE IS BY A CONCILIATORY TURKISH ATTITUDE ON CYPRUS, PREFERRING TO CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS.

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